Vehicular Pollution in Major Cities

190. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENVIORNMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that vehicular traffic is the most important source of pollution in all the major cities;

(b) whether the level of pollution is increasing, inspite of the preventive measures being taken, due to unrestricted growth of vehicular traffic; and

(c) if so, in what manner Government plan to control this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir. Vehicular traffic is a major source of air pollution in all the major cities.

(b) The air pollution levels have increased in metropolitan cities. However, in case of Delhi, the Central Pollution Control Board has reported that air pollution load has decreased in 1998-99.

(c) The measures taken/proposed to be taken to control the pollution include notification of stringent emission norms, improvements in fuel quality and vehicle technology, phasing out of old commercial vehicles, promotion of' use of clean fuel, augmentation of public transport system, optmisation of traffic flow and development of road infrastructure.

Poaching of Wild Animals

191. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether poaching of wild animals is continuing unhindered, almost throughout the country; and

(b) if so, the measures proposed to set up a voluntary task force, comprising villagers of the area, to protect wild animals and endangered birds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Cases of poaching have been detected both inside and outside the protected areas. However, the incidences of poaching are higher outside the protected areas due to inadequate enforcement infrastructure.

(b) The poaching is normally done by organised gangs. Villagers living in and around the protected areas find it difficult to Combat such forces. However, co-operation of local people and NGOs is elicited through eco-development and Joint Forest Management programmes for controlling wildlife crimes.

Hazardous inputs used by Chemical and Pharmaceutical Companies

192. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the hazardous inputs which are being used by the chemical and pharmaceutical industries in the country;

(b) whether Government have conducted any enquiry to ascertain the facts since these industries are reluctant to disclose the same;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Hazardous inputs used by chemical and pharmaceutical industries include toxic, flammable chemicals and explosives as defined and listed under Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemical Rules, 1989 [MSIHC] and subsequent amendments thereof.

(b) to (d) Government has got conducted Hazard Analysis Studies in 45 selected industrial pocket to assess the hazard potential of major accident hazard units located therein. Central and State Authorities have been empowered to conduct inspection under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.